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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 22 | Humidity 33% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 73,651 | Nifty 22,326 | Gold 67,800 | Silver 75,044 | Dollar 83.38 | Euro 90.06 | GBP 105.23

TECH UP ALMS

Alm seekers to UPI

PAGE 2

NO OFFENCE

Fine trick, but con

PAGE 3

With BWSSB lax on implementation, not many buildings comply with rainwater harvesting; but some are reaping benefits this harsh summer

EVERY RAINDROP COUNTS

Rainwater harvesting is mandatory in city

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Though rainwater harvesting is mandatory in Bengaluru, it is a known fact that not many buildings are compliant with this norm.

Some of the buildings have the rainwater harvesting system in place just for a formality and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which made rainwater harvesting mandatory for buildings constructed on sites measuring 60x40 feet or more, is not serious in implementing the norm.

It is not as though the BWSSB is not insisting that property owners install rainwater harvesting systems at their buildings. It is insisting and issuing notices to those who failed to follow the norm.

The problem with the BWSSB is it does not have the wherewithal or commitment to inspect rainwater harvesting equipment to verify

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"I need not worry about water shortage as I have water for the next six months

— Purushothaman, rainwater harvester, former employee, DRDO

Water cycle

'BWSSB water tankers shall service 110 villages for now'

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As apartments scour for private water tankers and complain about not being able to access the BWSSB tankers, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board has clarified that those water tankers are not currently meant for apartments and individual houses.

BWSSB has been supplying water through tankers for the 110 villages not serviced by Cauvery supply at present. As per BWSSB officials, the board would supply water regularly until the water crisis is over.

The board sees the commissioning of Cauvery Stage V as a great solution for the water crisis. Officials BM spoke to said the water crisis is acute only in those parts where the Cauvery supply is not available while admitting that borewells have dried up.

However, the stop-gap measure of the supply of water tankers by BWSSB might not be meant for everyone. Apartments and individual houses are still largely dependent on private water tankers to meet the supply. BWSSB water tankers go to areas and fill up sintex tanks placed in such areas or the area residents can collect water in buckets or containers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Odissi dance festival

Sanjali Centre for Odissi Dance presents the Pravaha Dance Festival, a tribute to Odissi legend Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra. Featuring acclaimed performances by leading artists, including Sharmila Mukerjee's poignant portrayal of "Sitaharan," Padmashri Aruna Mohanty's evocative rendition of "Samsara," and Anuradha Vikranth & the Drishti Dance Ensemble's spiritually enriching presentation of "AIKYAM." Join us for an enchanting evening celebrating the rich heritage of Odissi dance. Contact Sanjali Centre for Odissi Dance for ticket reservations and inquiries. **When- April 7, 6 pm onwards**
Where- Seva Sadan, Malleswaram

02 Techno beats

Get ready to dance the night away to the electrifying beats of renowned DJs Hunter Game, Ma Faiza, and Almost Human as they are set to deliver unforgettable performances. Known for their infectious club anthems, Hunter Game promises a night of pulsating rhythms, while Ma Faiza's energy and passion for music are bound to keep the crowd on their feet. **When- April 6 and 7;**
Where- High Ultra Lounge

03 Art of two states

The Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Palette People, Kochi, presents "Chitrakoodam: A Tribute to CN Karunakaran," a comprehensive exhibition honouring the life and artistry of renowned Kerala artist CN Karunakaran. This exhibition showcases Karunakaran's prolific contributions to the modern art movement of independent India. Visitors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in his abstract landscapes, figurative pieces, and works influenced.
When- Until April 30, 10 am to 6 pm
Where- Maini Sadan, Lavelle Road

Easter egg hunt

Children celebrate Easter Sunday, with colourful Easter eggs at the St Andrew's Church on Cubbon Road on Sunday.

Alm seekers shift to UPI

Amid decline in loose change, alms seekers display UPI codes for digital donations, facilitating transition to cashless economy

An alm seeker with a UPI scanner

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As an increasing number of Bengalureans opt for UPI payments, those most impacted appear to be alms seekers who no longer receive the small denominations of currency they once did. Nevertheless, adapting to evolving trends, these alms seekers in the city are now embracing technology by displaying UPI scanner codes around their necks, encouraging individuals to scan these codes and donate electronically.

Ramadasu, an alms seeker who is now looking for donations via UPI, said, "Alms seekers have long been a part of the urban landscape, seeking alms from passersby in exchange for their basic survival needs. Traditionally, one of the primary means through which we received donations was in the form of loose change, which people readily gave as it was easily accessible and convenient. However, with the advent of digital payment systems like UPI and the increasing trend of cashless transactions, the availability of loose change has significantly decreased. This shift in payment methods has had a profound impact on our livelihoods, affecting our ability to meet our basic needs and sustain ourselves. Hence, I was given training by a few people, who helped me open a bank account, and now I seek donations via UPI. One good thing is that the donations have marginally gone up, as many people who used to earlier give Re 1 or Rs 2 change now scan a slightly higher amount. Once a month, I can draw the amount from my bank for my expenses."

His wife Meenakshamma said, "We are facing numerous challenges due to the decline in loose change, which leads to a reduction in our overall earnings. In the past, people would often give small denominations of cash when approached by us. However, with fewer people carrying cash and opting for digital transactions, the frequency and amount of donations in the form of loose change have decreased significantly. This directly translates to a decrease in our income as we rely on them for daily sustenance."

Devappa, another alms seeker, added, "The shift towards digital payments has also changed the dynamics of giving. In the past, individuals would often give loose change without much thought, considering it a small and insignificant amount. However, with digital transactions, there is a psychological barrier for people to make small donations, as they are more conscious of the transaction fees and prefer to donate larger amounts to justify the transaction. This behaviour change further reduces the likelihood of beggars receiving regular donations of loose change. Another consequence of the decline in loose change donations is increased competition. As the pool of available change diminishes, we are forced to compete for the limited resources, leading to heightened tensions and conflicts in already challenging circumstances. This competition not only exacerbates social issues but also makes it even more challenging for individual beggars to secure enough donations to meet their basic needs."

> **"With fewer alms seekers having access to loose change, local businesses that rely on their patronage may also experience a decline in revenue, impacting the overall economic ecosystem**
> – Sreekanth, Economics lecturer

Sreekanth, an Economics lecturer, said, "The decline in loose change donations has a ripple effect on the broader economy. Alms seekers are often part of the informal economy, and their spending of loose change contributes to local businesses and vendors. With fewer alms seekers having access to loose change, local businesses that rely on their patronage may also experience a decline in revenue, impacting the overall economic ecosystem. A few organisations and initiatives have emerged to support beggars in adapting to the digital age. These efforts include providing training on digital literacy and facilitating access to mobile phones or digital wallets for beggars to receive donations electronically."

Fine trick: No traffic offence, but it is a con

Netizens ask traffic police to take note after cases of fake RTO message to siphon off money from bank accounts comes to fore

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Scamsters are now trying to siphon data under the guise of being the state police. ThirdEye, a Youtuber, took to Twitter (X) to call out the issue.

"Beware of scamsters sending a WhatsApp message claiming a traffic violation challan has been issued to your vehicle, along with an APK file to potentially steal your data and siphon off money from your bank account," the X handle noted, while attaching screenshots of the WhatsApp messages of the scam.

Claiming to be a message from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) from Bengaluru Central, the message read, "We regret to inform you that a traffic violation has been recorded against your vehicle. Specifically, you have been observed running a red light. To verify and view evidence related to this violation, please access the Vahan Parivahan mobile application. This application will provide you with detailed information, including photographic evidence of the violation," along with details such as the challan number, vehicle number and the violation date.

ThirdEye said that after the recipient verified his details on the Karnataka One portal which showed no traffic violations, he realised that the WhatsApp message was a scam. "What's more interesting is the scamster had the data of the accurate vehicle number and mobile number. How did they get their hands on the mobile number linked with the vehicle?" he added, while saying that it may be possible that the data got leaked through insurance agencies or applications where customers have added their vehicle number to track fuel expenses and link their insurance policies.

Another citizen also reported to have received a similar message. However, he said that he ignored the message and deleted it without downloading the APK file, saving himself from any potential scams. On the other hand, he noted that innocent people may fall victim to such scams done by impersonating the police department.

> **"What's more interesting is the scamster had the data of the accurate vehicle number and mobile number. How did they get their hands on the mobile number linked with the vehicle?**

Netizens expressed their fears over the potential siphoning that could take place if one accidentally chose to download the APK file. They have urged the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) to take up the case suo moto as the scamsters are impersonating them.

Massive blaze in Kadugodi forest, smoke all around

A significant blaze erupted in the Kadugodi forest area, adjacent to the Information Technology Park Limited (ITPL), causing widespread disruption in the vicinity. A thick column of smoke billowed into the sky from the forest, enveloping nearby areas and triggering respiratory issues among local residents.

Authorities and relevant agencies are mobilizing to contain the fire, which has rapidly spread across a vast expanse of the forest. The blaze, fueled by dry leaves accumulated during spring, has escalated swiftly, prompting concerted efforts to extinguish it.

The district administration is exploring all avenues for assistance, including potential support from the Indian Air Force.

The fire incident was notified approximately at 2.05 pm, with three vehicles dispatched to the scene. The fire originated within the forested area, likely ignited by the dry foliage, trees, and grass typical of summer, though the precise cause remains under investigation. Authorities anticipate that extinguishing the blaze entirely may require additional time, according to an official statement.

The affected forest spans an area of 40-50 acres. **BMB**

Picture courtesy: @ Bnglrweatherman on X

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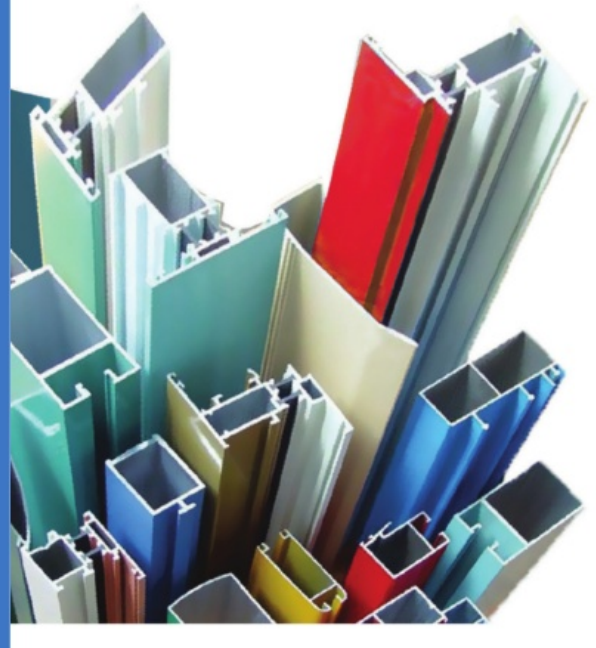

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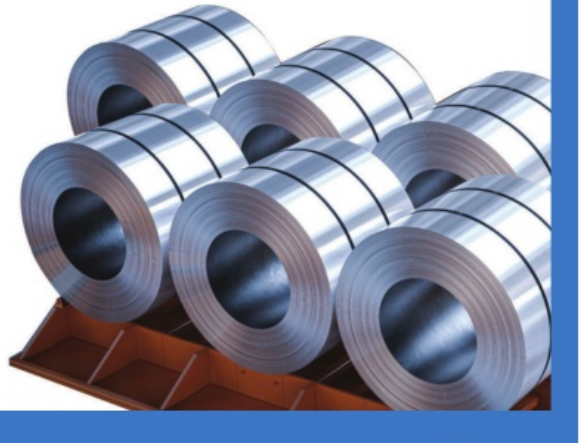

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Experts want BWSSB to tap into aerator fix for water woes

As Bengaluru grapples with dwindling groundwater levels, BWSSB initiates compulsory installation of tap aerators, imposing fines for non-compliance

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The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has commenced issuing notices to Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the city regarding the mandatory installation of tap aerators. The BWSSB, in their order, stated that due to the lack of rain in Bengaluru, many tube wells have dried up owing to the low groundwater level. In this regard, the cooperation of all is deemed very important to adequately manage the escalating problems. In this context, it is in the public interest to install a Flow Restrictor/Aerator in the taps used for cleanliness in malls, commercial complexes, apartments, government buildings, luxury hotels, restaurants, and public areas including places of worship.

BWSSB, in their order, stated that if tap aerators are not installed in the aforementioned places by March 31, then immediately 50 per cent of the water supply would be reduced, and there would be a fine of Rs 5000. A recurrence of the violation will result in a fine of Rs 5000 with an additional penalty of Rs 500 per day.

People seen collecting drinking water from public filtered water tap as many borewells and ground water taps dried up

However, Rajkumar Dugar from Citizens for Citizens (C4C) pointed out that tap aerators are not readily available everywhere and BWSSB should come out with a plan of giving out the aerators in all their offices to the public. "We fully agree and appreciate the order of BWSSB. However, tap aerators are not easily available everywhere. For instance, in Vasanthnagar, when I tried to get the aerators, they were not available. Now we have to go to the city market or Shivajinagar to get them. When Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) introduced the concept of LED bulbs, they were providing them in their office at subsidised rates. Similarly, BWSSB should initiate by providing the aerators at subsidised prices in their offices. This will lead to more people buying and installing them. BWSSB should get vendors to supply them and then give them to the public. If the intention is to significantly reduce water consumption, then this is the right way. Also, the order should be made mandatory for all and not just for apartments, hotels, commercial buildings, or malls."

Vikram Rai, President of Bangalore Apartment Federation, pointed out that they have made a request to the BWSSB chairman to initiate the addition of tap aerators to even plumbing equipment. "We have been encouraging the use of tap aerators since 2017. Many of the apartments have already installed them. Over 40-50 per cent of the apartments have installed tap aerators. We are encouraging the members to install them. However, we want BWSSB to promote and make it universal. We have made a request to the chairman to come out with plumbing equipment aerators that could be pre-fixed with them to save water," said Rai.

Madhavan Rao, a water conservation enthusiast, highlighted the need for innovation and swift implementation alongside the familiar concept of Tap Aerators. "While the concept itself isn't new, what's crucial is a fresh approach to large-scale deployment," he stated. Rao advocated for a combination of policy decisions and project-based implementation to achieve the goal of saving up to 500 MLD through widespread Aerator installation. "Declaring a policy is just the beginning; it must be followed by robust implementation and tracking mechanisms," he emphasised. To this end, Rao proposed the development of a user-friendly tracking tool dubbed the "Bengaluru WUC dashboard," aimed at monitoring Aerator implementation across various establishments, including apartments, government offices, colleges, hotels, hospitals, and more.

> **"We have made a request to the BWSSB chairman to set up plumbing equipment aerators that could be pre-fixed with them to save water** – Vikram Rai, President, Bangalore Apartment Federation

Furthermore, Rao stressed the importance of banning the sale of non-Aerator compatible taps and setting maximum flow rate limits. "There should be a restriction on the flow rate for washbasin taps to 4 LPM and for kitchen and utility taps to 6 LPM," he explained. Rao suggested leveraging social media platforms to encourage citizens to showcase compliant taps in their homes, while also proposing recognition and rewards for Resident Welfare Associations maintaining 100 per cent Aerator implementation. "Publicising such achievements can serve as motivation for other establishments to follow suit," he concluded.

Water for 110 villages first

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The apartment complexes and individual house owners have been complaining about not being able to access these water tankers due to their impracticality. "Public water tankers are for free supply of water for the public. At present, individual apartments may not be able to get BWSSB tankers," said Dr Ramprasath Manohar V, chairman, BWSSB.

The BWSSB has been supplying water through the 110 water tankers in the first phase and another 100 are planned to be deployed in the second phase. The transport department has been seizing excess tankers and supplying them to BWSSB for operations. While BWSSB has not been able to provide relief for those living in apartments and individual houses, they have placed restrictions like prohibiting Cauvery water for washing cars and mandating the usage of aerators for households and commercial establishments. Failing to comply with the mandates, BWSSB can cut the Cauvery supply by 50%.

To provide water supply to the newly added 110 villages which are part of the BBMP limits, the BWSSB is finding it difficult to meet the water requirements even after implementation of Stage IV, Phase II scheme.

The Urban Development Department, Govt. of Karnataka allocated an additional 10 TMC (775 MLD) of Cauvery Water for Bengaluru city. The stage V Scheme in two Phases i.e., Phase I of 500 MLD (6.45 TMC) capacity and Phase II of 275 MLD (3.55 TMC) capacity will supply water for the 110 villages. BWSSB is confident about the commissioning of Cauvery Stage V by May.

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Concrete spill
Rajajinagar

There is a significant issue of concrete spillage from trucks near Navrang in Rajajinagar, causing inconvenience to nearby vehicles and pedestrians.

Tar the road
Hosapalya

A persistent pothole is leading to heavy traffic congestion, inconveniencing residents. Despite multiple attempts to fill it with concrete, the patch keeps deteriorating. Immediate tar filling is required on the roads.

Unattractive road
Jayanagar

While the road in Jayanagar is aesthetically pleasing, there is a garbage accumulation spot and a land dispute that has been in court for 42 years, leading to people dumping garbage on 9th Main Road, 5th Block.

Sarjapur Road residents alarmed after disturbing encounter

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Another distressing encounter unfolded on Sarjapur Road around 9:45 pm on Saturday amidst a crowd, while a man and his wife were driving. A group of four individuals, spanning three vehicles, persistently attempted to intercept them during a harrowing 15 to 20-minute pursuit.

The man took to social media to share the details of being chased by rowdies.

"We managed to escape and reach Bellandur Police Station. The main guy didn't have a registration plate, as can be seen in the video. They stopped us and started smashing our car windows, with a clear intention to hurt us physically," said the man.

They filed a complaint at Bellandur Police Station. "The cops were kind enough to escort us home. But the incident was extremely scary, and we felt hopeless and helpless at one point," he added.

> **This has become a daily nuisance in the Sarjapur area; if the police were doing something, it would not have been repeated so many times** –a Sarjapur Road resident

The man shared videos and pictures taken by his dash cam, and the videos showed a man on a bike standing right in front of the victim's car. The accused's face was clearly visible in the pictures that were shared.

After the victim shared the incident on social media, several people expressed their concern regarding safety on Sarjapur Road.

"How are we supposed to feel safe when these thugs threaten openly on the road, blackmail them, and effortlessly commit crimes to make families suffer? How do we believe that we are in a safe locality and that the police will take control of these crimes? Will there be any action on these criminals?" questioned a resident.

Another resident said, "This has become a daily nuisance in the Sarjapur area; if the police were doing something, it would not have been repeated so many times."

Woman 'hounded' for reporting child begging

Concerns raised over police procedure as woman forced to accompany officers to station after reporting child begging

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Children seen begging on the streets (file photo); Inset– Hoysala Police team seen without a woman police constable

Generally, the police are supposed to encourage the public to come forward to provide information on child labour and the exploitation of children. There is no need for the public to visit the police station to give such information. They can do so over the phone and remain anonymous. It is the responsibility of the police to hand over or produce the rescued children before the respective District Child Protection Committee for protection, rehabilitation, or restoration with their families.

"The objective is not to discourage the public from providing data or information to the police on child labour or the exploitation of children," said Nagamani, a concerned woman, recounting her experience. An unfortunate incident took place within the High Grounds Police Station limits on Saturday evening. Nagamani explained, "I happened to see the girl begging at Basaveshwara Circle aka Chalukya Circle. I contacted 1098, but the phone call got transferred to 112. I was very happy when Hoysala police arrived at the spot. I was waiting at some distance from the girl. The police asked me to accompany the girl to High Grounds Police Station since there was no woman police constable with them. I agreed to accompany them in the interest of the girl. After reaching the police station, I was shocked when the police insisted that I give a written complaint."

Nagamani expressed concern about the lack of sensitisation among police towards child rights and welfare. Later, she informed a member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) about her plight at High Grounds Police Station. Criticising the High Grounds Police for their lack of sensitisation towards child rights, Manjula S, a member of KSCPCR, emphasised, "There is no need for the public to give a written complaint whenever they inform the police about child labour or exploitation of children."

"Lamenting over the lack of sensitisation among police on child rights and welfare," Nagashima G Rao of Child Rights Trust added, "every police station should and must have a special juvenile police unit to deal with cases related to child labour, exploitation, and missing." Bharati Devi BS, District Child Protection Officer of the District Child Protection Unit, clarified, "The girl is from Chennai as per the Aadhaar Card and other details gathered from her parents. The parents are advised to appear before the Child Welfare Committee on Tuesday. The girl is restored with her parents." Devi emphasised, "There is no need for the public to visit the police station to give a written complaint."

When contacted, a head police constable at the High Grounds Police Station stated, "Our Hoysala team along with a woman police constable visited the spot and brought the girl to the police station." However, when asked about the absence of a woman police constable along with the Hoysala team, the head police constable declined to comment. Meanwhile, the High Grounds Police Inspector assured that he would look into the matter.

Taxing: Too much or too little

Zomato on Sunday said it has received a tax demand, interest, along penalty, to the tune of Rs 23.26 crore from the Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Audit), Karnataka.

The online food delivery platform said it would appeal against the order before the appropriate authority.

In a regulatory filing to the BSE, the company said it has "received an order for FY 2018-19 pursuant to the audit of GST returns and accounts by the Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Audit), Karnataka, raising demand of GST of Rs 11,27,23,564, along with applicable interest and penalty totalling to Rs 23,26,64,271.

"We believe that we have a strong case on merits and the company will be filing an appeal against the order before the appropriate authority," Zomato said in the filing.

Infosys to receive Rs 6,329 cr tax refund

Infosys expects a refund of Rs 6,329 crore from the Income Tax Department, the country's second-largest IT services company said.

It also informed the stock exchanges about tax demand to the tune of Rs 2,763 crore, citing various assessment orders.

Infosys Ltd said it has received orders from the Income Tax Department for assessment years 07-08 to 15-16, 17-18, and 18-19 during the quarter.

"As per the orders, the company expects a refund of Rs 6,329 crore (including interest). The company is in the process of evaluating the implications of these orders on the financial statements for the quarter and year ending March 31, 2024," Infosys said in a BSE filing.

Infosys, which competes with TCS and Wipro and others in the market for IT services contracts, is scheduled to declare its financial results for the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year as well as the full FY24 on April 18.

The Bengaluru-headquartered IT company also said it has received an order for assessment year 22-23 with a tax demand of Rs 2,763 crore, including interest, and for assessment year 11-12 with a tax demand of Rs 4 crore, interest included.

Infosys has received assessment orders for subsidiaries as well, totalling Rs 277 crore. — PTI

Animal vs human: 1 person killed in 1 week in K'taka

Data shared by Forest Department reveals conflicts mostly reported in southern part of state starting from Bannerghatta

In this file photo, a herd of elephants run amok at a field in Mysuru

One person on average gets killed in human-animal conflict every week in Karnataka, reveals official data.

According to the forest department, such conflicts are mostly reported in the southern part of the state starting from Bannerghatta, Chamarajanagara, Mysuru, Kodagu and Hassan to Chikkamagaluru belt.More than 600 people have lost their lives due to attacks by wild animals, majority of them being from elephants, over the last decade, officials said. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has termed such conflicts as a "blazing issue" before his government. According to the data shared by the forest department with PTI, 618 people have died in human-animal conflict in Karnataka between 2010-11 and 2023-24 (up to March six this year).

These include 416 deaths from attacks by elephants, 38 by leopards, 36 by bears/sloth bears, 34 by tigers, and 32 by wild boars. While presenting the state budget in February, Siddaramaiah outlined measures being taken towards protecting people residing in the areas bordering forests and crops from wild animals, while protecting wildlife. To address man-animal conflict, Rs 100 crore was provided in the previous budget (2023-24) for construction of railway barricades and around 78 km of railway barricades were constructed.

In the current year (2024-25) also, priority will be given to construct barricades, the government said. The total budget allotted to wildlife wing of the forest department for 2024-25 is approximately Rs 151 crore which is for all the wildlife related works, including Rs 60 crore alone for construction of railway barricades, one of the major preventive measures to combat human-elephant conflict. Pointing out that animals are moving out of forests because their habitat is getting disturbed, a forest officer said a lot of weeds have started growing inside forests. With the conservation effort, population of animals, especially elephants has increased. So habitats need to improve.

"Poaching has come down, animals are increasing and the grassland which were available are now getting invaded by the weeds like lantana...So, animals come out. Then there is a conflict...to address the issue, we need to have proper barricades on the boundary of the forest. We need to have rail barricades, solar fencing, and elephant-proof trench," he said. "Besides that, we also need to improve the habitat inside the forest...we need to improve the quality of forest, remove the weeds, we need to improve the water levels by moisture conservation works, lot of such works are required," he added. Based on the surveys done earlier, the department has already identified the places where railway barricades need to be constructed. Initially, almost 640 kms were identified where railway barricades were required.

> **"Villagers have been complaining that elephant proof trench is not effective with incidents of soil collapses and feel rail barricades are more effective** –Forest officer

"Now the need has increased to 750 kms roughly. Out of that, starting from 2015, we have already covered 311 km. Our task for the current year is to complete 120 km," a senior forest official said. According to officials, the demand for extending construction of railway barricades to other areas of conflict would also grow. "Villagers have been complaining that elephant proof trench is not effective with incidents of soil collapses and feel rail barricades are more effective when it comes to preventing loss of lives as well as crop damage," he said. **– PTI**

Bengaluru, new market for AC makers

Sale of air conditioners has seen a relatively slow start, contrary to expectations, but manufacturers remain confident of registering double-digit growth to cross the 11.5 million unit sales-mark this year. Leading players in the AC industry said "favourable weather forecast of a scorching summer" and increase in disposable income are likely to push up sales. What is more, some even spoke about emerging markets in the country, such as Bengaluru.

BNP Paribas, in an industry report, said ACs attract the highest goods and services tax (GST) rate of 28 per cent, were perceived as a luxury good as they attracted the highest GST rate of 28 per cent. "However, due to rising temperature levels and hot summers, AC are incrementally turning out to be a necessity. For example, Bengaluru city has emerged as a new market for AC brands owing to rising temperatures," it said. AC sales have started on a positive note in the southern markets, where demand generally starts from the middle of February, Havells India Executive Director Yogesh Kumar Gupta said.

However in north India, the region which contributes over half of the industry volumes, only "primary sales have picked up, and secondary response is still not in line with expectations", Jawa said, adding that "overall industry growth will be 10-12 per cent in value terms".

Top manufacturers such as Daikin, Panasonic, LG Electronics, Blue Star, Godrej Appliances and Lloyd, expect up to 25% growth this year, along with contribution from tier-III towns and smaller centres. Sale of energy-efficient 5-star inverter-technology-based models will have a higher contribution from metroes and other big markets, while affordable 3-star ACs will dominate the semi-urban and rural markets, they said. **– PTI**

BM Finance Fundas

2 insurance rules in effect from today you must know about

There are two guidelines that are going to impact insurance policyholders, starting from April 1, 2024. One is mandatory e-Insurance policies for new policyholders and the other is regarding the surrender charges of the life insurance plans such as endowment policies. Here's what policyholders need to know:

e-Insurance mandatory

It is mandatory to hold insurance policies in electronic format from April 1, 2024. It is very similar to how investors hold shares in a demat account. You have to buy electronic insurance policies which will be held in a demat account termed an e-Insurance Account, or eIA. All you need to do is open an e-Insurance Account from any of the four repositories – CAMS Insurance Repository, Karvy, NSDL Database Management (NDML), and Central Insurance Repository of India.

It will reduce paperwork. "This development ensures the security of policyholder information and provides greater accessibility by eliminating the complex paperwork, hence streamlining processes for both insurers and customers," says Shashank Chaphekar, Chief Distribution Officer, ManipalCigna Health Insurance. It will reduce paperwork. "This development ensures the security of policyholder information and provides greater accessibility by eliminating the complex paperwork, hence streamlining processes for both insurers and customers," says Shashank Chaphekar, Chief Distribution Officer, ManipalCigna Health Insurance.

Further, all your insurance policies — life, health, and general insurance policies — will be kept in one place. You can view, maintain, and update details of your policies through your e-Insurance Account. Opening an e-Insurance Account account is easy and free. The insurer will bear the cost of opening of an e-Insurance Account on your behalf. Do keep in mind that there will be one eIA for all your insurance policies. "This step will also enhance customer experience and provide a centralized platform for managing all insurance policies seamlessly. The development marks a pivotal moment towards serving customers better in this digital age," Chaphekar adds.

You will still have an option to get the policy documents in physical format if you want. This rule is only applicable when you buy new insurance policies. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) guidelines have not mentioned anything about the existing insurance policyholders yet.

Surrender charges are effective from Apr 1, 2024

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has announced the final set of surrender charges in non-linked or linked life insurance products — traditional endowment policies. Here are the proposed slabs for the surrender value percentages:

1) 30% of total premiums paid if surrendered during the second year.
2) 35% of total premiums paid if surrendered during the third year.
3) 50% of total premiums paid if surrendered between the fourth and seventh years.
4) 90% of premiums paid if surrendered during the last two years.

While this move is good news for insurance companies, the customers will hardly get any major relief. "This status quo provides a to the life insurers, who otherwise had the tough task of balancing the impact of increased surrender value to the lapsing customers by tinkering with the distributor's payout, providing benefit to policyholders, and maintaining shareholders' profitability (VNB margins)," says Emkay Global.

— Anulekha Ray, ETOnline

Vintage for vote

A vintage Car rally organised by Karnataka State Election Commission ahead of the Lok Sabha election to promote voting awareness in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Kanakapura, where political history was scripted

We take close look at political battleground that ended up making or breaking several prominent leaders' fate

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Kanakapura has been important to Shivakumar, Deve Gowda, Kumaraswamy

In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Bengaluru North stands out as the largest parliamentary constituency in Karnataka. Bengaluru itself is distributed across five constituencies: Bengaluru North, South, Central, Rural, and Chikkaballapur. However, prior to delimitation, most of these were part of the Kanakapura constituency, which held importance as one of the largest constituencies in the country. Kanakapura was not just a political battleground but also a platform where several prominent leaders rose to prominence or faced defeat.

Political analysts highlight Kanakapura as the nurturing ground for former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda' second innings and current Deputy CM DK Shivakumar. Even HD Kumaraswamy had a stint as an MP from Kanakapura earlier in his career. After becoming the country's first PM from Karnataka, Deve Gowda contested the 1998 elections from Hassan under the Janata Dal banner, defeating Congress candidate HC Srikantaiah by a margin of 31,654 votes.

However, in the subsequent 1999 Lok Sabha polls, Deve Gowda faced a setback, losing to Congress candidate G Puttaswamy Gowda by a staggering margin of 1,44,757 votes. During this tumultuous period, protests over irrigation projects resulted in the loss of two farmers' lives, prompting Gowda to stage a remarkable comeback by embarking on a Padayatra.

Around the same time, the incumbent MP from Kanakapura, MV Chandrashekara Murthy of Congress, passed away, necessitating a by-poll. An opportunity presented itself in 2002 when a by-election was called for the Kanakapura parliamentary constituency. Deve Gowda contested and emerged victorious, albeit facing tough competition from Shivakumar of Congress and KS Eshwarappa from BJP.

However, in the 2004 parliamentary polls, Deve Gowda once again contested from Kanakapura, alongside Hassan. This time, he faced tough competition from journalist-turned-politician Tejaswini Sreeramesh (later Tejaswini Gowda) fielded by Congress. Tejaswini's surprising victory pushed Gowda to third place, with BJP's Ramachandra Gowda coming second.

Kumaraswamy had earlier won this constituency defeating MV Chandrashekar Murthy in 1996. However, in subsequent elections, the seat witnessed shifts, with M Srinath winning as a BJP candidate in 1998, only to lose it back to Murthy in 1999.

Notable MPs

Kanakapura constituency, established in 1967, has seen several notable MPs over the years. Congress candidates like MV Rajashekaran and CK Jaffer Sharief had successful tenures representing Kanakapura. Post-delimitation, the constituencies underwent division, with Sathanur (later Kanakapura assembly constituency), Uttarahalli (divided into Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru South, and Dasarahalli), Anekal, and Malavalli assembly segments emerging. Ramanagar district also saw the creation of new constituencies like Bengaluru Rural in 2008.

The big gun

The constituency came into existence in 1967, with the first Member of Parliament being MV Rajashekaran from the Congress. In the subsequent 1971 elections, CK Jaffer Sharief, also from Congress, emerged victorious.

However, in the following elections, Sharief shifted his focus to Bengaluru North, leaving Kanakapura. In the 1977 elections, MV Chadrashekar Murthy, whose father Venkatappa was a well-known figure from Mandya and owned the popular Udaya Ranga buses, entered the political scene by contesting from Kanakapura. He went on to win the seat an impressive five times between 1977 and 1996. Additionally, Murthy served as a Minister of State in the Finance Department during PV Narasimha Rao's cabinet from 1991 to 1996.

'If BJP wins these match fixed polls...country will be on fire'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that if the Bharatiya Janata Party wins the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and tries to change the Constitution, then the whole nation will be set on fire.

Addressing the public at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, Rahul Gandhi said, "If the BJP wins these match-fixed elections, and changes the Constitution, the whole country will be on fire. Remember this."

Rahul Gandhi further alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to fix the elections in his favour.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to do match fixing in these elections. Without EVMs, match-fixing, social media, and pressurizing the press, they cannot win more than 180 seats," Wayanad MP said.

He further said that the Constitution will cease to exist if the BJP registers victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"The day this match fixing becomes successful, our Constitution will cease to exist right there. These are not ordinary elections. These elections are to save the future of India, and the rights of farmers. The whole country knows match fixing is going on," he said.

Earlier today, INDIA alliance leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, J-K NC leader Farooq Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, Jharkhand CM Champai Soren and other leaders, attended the INDIA bloc rally in Ramlila Maidan, Delhi.

Displaying a show of strength at the capital's Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, Opposition leaders staged a protest against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case.

Punjab Chief Minister and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann said that the BJP government can arrest Arvind Kejriwal, but not his "ideology."

"You can arrest Arvind Kejriwal, but how will you arrest his ideology. In which jail will you send the lakhs of Kejriwals that are born in India. Arvind Kejriwal is not a person, Arvind Kejriwal is the name of an ideology...

AAP, Congress, CPI and SDPI leaders protest against the arrest of Delhi CM at Freedom Park on Sunday

Today, the INDIA Alliance is together. But they don't want us to be together," Punjab CM said.

Meanwhile, Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren attacked the Modi government and said that it did not like the upliftment of the backward classes and communities that Hemant Soren did in Jharkhand. "...This is the fight our ancestors also fought in Jharkhand. We are one. We will not let the ideology of BJP thrive in Jharkhand as well as the country," Soren said.

Likening the BJP and RSS with "poison," Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday attacked the BJP-led government, saying this is the time to decide whether we want "democracy or dictatorship."

"You have to decide if you want democracy or dictatorship... Those who support dictatorship need to be kicked out of the country. The BJP and RSS are like poison. You will die even if you taste poison," Kharge said.

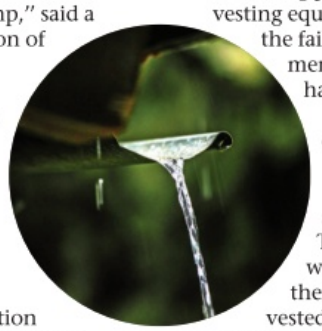
-ANI

Why rainwater harvesting is a must

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

whether the set up is functioning as per the requirement.

"There are many buildings that have rainwater harvesting equipment just for the sake of installing. The building owners install it to avoid penalty or disconnection of Cauvery water supply. The BWSSB engineer or his representative inspect the rainwater harvesting without checking the percolation pit or whether it is connected to the water sump," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.



However, there are some people in the city who are harvesting rainwater and reaping maximum benefits. For example, Purushothaman, a former employee of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and resident of Ashraya Layout near TC Palya, has been reaping benefits of rainwater harvesting.

While most of the residents in the city, including BWSSB authorities, are worried about acute shortage of drinking water, Purushothaman is not worried about such a problem as he did not face any shortage of water in the recent years.

"I need not worry about water shortage as I have water for the next six months. There are two sumps – one with 30,000 litres and another one with 10,000 litres capacity. Not only rainwater but also RO wastewater enters the sump. Before entering the overhead tank, water goes through a sand filter," said Purushothaman, adding that he did not buy water from private water suppliers after installing the rainwater harvesting facility.

He said his house has Cauvery water connection and uses Cauvery water for drinking purposes.

Some residents are of the opinion that lack of encouragement from the state government and lack of awareness on using proper rainwater harvesting equipment are reasons for the failure of effective implementation of rainwater harvesting in the city.

"Many building owners have installed rainwater harvesting equipment just for the sake of installing it. They are not sure whether it is good for them to use rainwater harvested through such equipment.

We supply food grade equipment that is rust free and it does not require electricity for cleaning or harvesting rainwater. The Odisha government offers subsidies to building owners who install rainwater harvesting equipment.

The state government should encourage building owners to install rainwater harvesting equipment," said Manoj Baptist, director of Rainy Research & Innovation Factory, adding that his company has played a key role in installing rainwater harvesting equipment in and around Devanahalli.

Karnataka '74: 'Giants on whose shoulders future generations prospered'

Warm spells of nostalgia washed across the room as members of the Karnataka team that won the 1974 Ranji Trophy bundled the audience into a time-capsule and took them back to an era where cricket and life were simpler.

Unassuming those days and players might have been, but the path found by champions like GR Viswanath, Syed Kirmani, Brijesh Patel, EAS Prasanna and BS Chandrasekhar has only broadened over the years through which several ace cricketers walked through.

None among them shone brighter than Rahul Dravid, former India captain and the team's current head coach.

"It was an inspiration for all of us. Right from our U15 and U17 tours, all we could hear was how Karnataka beat the mighty Bombay against all odds (in the semifinals back then).

"It really opened the doors for Karnataka cricket, and also the rest of the country that it is possible to beat Bombay. It was the bedrock of everything that followed as on the shoulders of these giants Karnataka cricket prospered," Dravid said here in a function organised to felicitate the class of '74.

Karnataka ended Mumbai's streak in the semis by virtue of their first innings lead, with Viswanath and Brijesh making hundreds while Prasanna and Chandrasekhar sharing nine wickets among them.

It was the first time in 15 seasons Mumbai failed to enter a Ranji Trophy final.

In the summit clash, Karnataka went past Rajasthan by 185 runs as skipper Prasanna returned with a nine-wicket haul to bag their maiden Ranji title.

Viswanath, in his typical humble way, reminisced how Brijesh tamed a solid Mumbai spin attack consisting of Padmakar Shivalkar, Eknath Solkar, Rakesh Tandon and Milind Rege.

"Brijesh was a slightly hesitant starter for the first few balls. But once he is set, he is a nightmare for bowlers, especially spinners. Good luck to bowlers," he said. **PTI**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Political cameo

While many movie stars transition into politics, there are few instances of politicians entering the movie industry. However, movies remain an attractive avenue for politicians. Past examples include former Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde and current Chief Minister Siddaramaiah making cameo appearances in films. The latest addition to this trend is former Deputy Chief Minister and current Athani MLA Laxman Savadi, who will be making a cameo appearance in the upcoming Desai movie, portraying the character of Athani Sahukar.

'Royal' commoner

The Mysuru elections are buzzing with excitement due to the involvement of Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the scion of the Wadiyar dynasty.
However, this addition has sparked both praise and criticism alike. Recently, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made headlines when he remarked that Wadiyar was no longer a king. When reporters pressed him for a response, he emphasised that there is no place in the constitution for either a titular king or queen, as everyone is considered an equal citizen.

'Costly' travel

A woman and her granddaughter found themselves in a surprising situation when they boarded a KSRTC bus and were charged Rs 444 for their journey between Bengaluru to Mysuru. Despite being eligible for a free ticket under the Shakti scheme, they had to pay up due to an unexpected twist – they were accompanied by four love birds. The conductor informed them that while they were entitled to free travel, the birds were not, and thus, each bird required a ticket priced at Rs 111.

This peculiar scenario left the duo with no choice but to pay the total amount of Rs 444 for bringing along their beloved feathered friends. As fellow commuters expressed confusion and dissatisfaction, the KSRTC staff clarified that according to the transport corporation's rules, pet animals and birds transported on buses must have designated tickets and are not eligible for fee waivers.

Domestic issue

MLAs often face numerous challenges in their roles. For Chitradurga MLA KC Veerendra, an unusual challenge arose when a family in his constituency invited him to intervene in a domestic dispute. The dispute between the daughter-in-law and mother-in-law had escalated to the point where the daughter-in-law refused to enter the house until the MLA intervened and resolved the issue.
Veerendra attempted to mediate and urged both parties to reconcile, but they were unwilling. He eventually had to leave, emphasising that he had more pressing matters than resolving family disputes.

Yummy food

Cricketer Shreyanka Patil is basking in the glory of her team's recent championship victory. In a recent video, she enthusiastically expressed her love for home-cooked meals from North Karnataka, revealing her preference to enjoy them whenever and wherever possible. During a fan interaction, a curious fan inquired about the first meal she had after returning home following the victorious finals. Patil joyfully recounted how upon arriving home, her mother had prepared 'Kadak rotti' and 'yengayi palya', describing it as the most delicious food she had tasted, especially after missing her mom's cooking during the intense matches.

Sridhar Vivan

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rani Bottolanda Machaiah, W/o Subbaiah Namera, R/o 5152, Prestige song of the south, Begur-Koppa Road, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru 68, have changed my name as Rani B M for all purpose.

I, Bindu Manoj w/o Manoj Venugopal R/o #11118, Tower 11, Prestige song of the south, Yelanahalli, Begur Road, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to BINDU PALAKKAL affidavit Dt.29/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

MY Daughter, Diyaa Subbaiah Namera Poovaiah, D/o Subbaiah Namera, R/o 5152, Prestige song of the south, Begur-Koppa Road, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru 68, has changed her name as Diyaa Subbaiah Namera for all purpose. Rani B M (Mother)

I Jitendar Kumar Dhule S/O. Kallappa Dhule R/o Silvepura,hesaragatta Hobli, Kasagattapura, Bengaluru-560090 have changed my name to Jitender Kallappa Dhule.

LOST & FOUND

I, G N Sudindra Rao R/O No 80/3, 1st J Cross Sharada Colony, Basaveshwar Nagar, Bengaluru - 560079 Have Lost Our Original Documents - Driving License, Sslc Marks Card 1987, Pre University Courses Marks Card 1989, Bangalore University B Com Graduation Certificate 1993, Vysya Bank Duty Report And Relieving Letters, Company Documents, Star Health Company Documents, Lr No. 0978874/2024, If Found Please Contact: 9741667016, Sudhindracn1@gmail.Com

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HEALTH TIP: Some people have a faster metabolism, which means their bodies burn through energy quicker and thus retain fewer visible fats

Research suggests that Indians have a different metabolic profile that makes them susceptible to abdominal obesity

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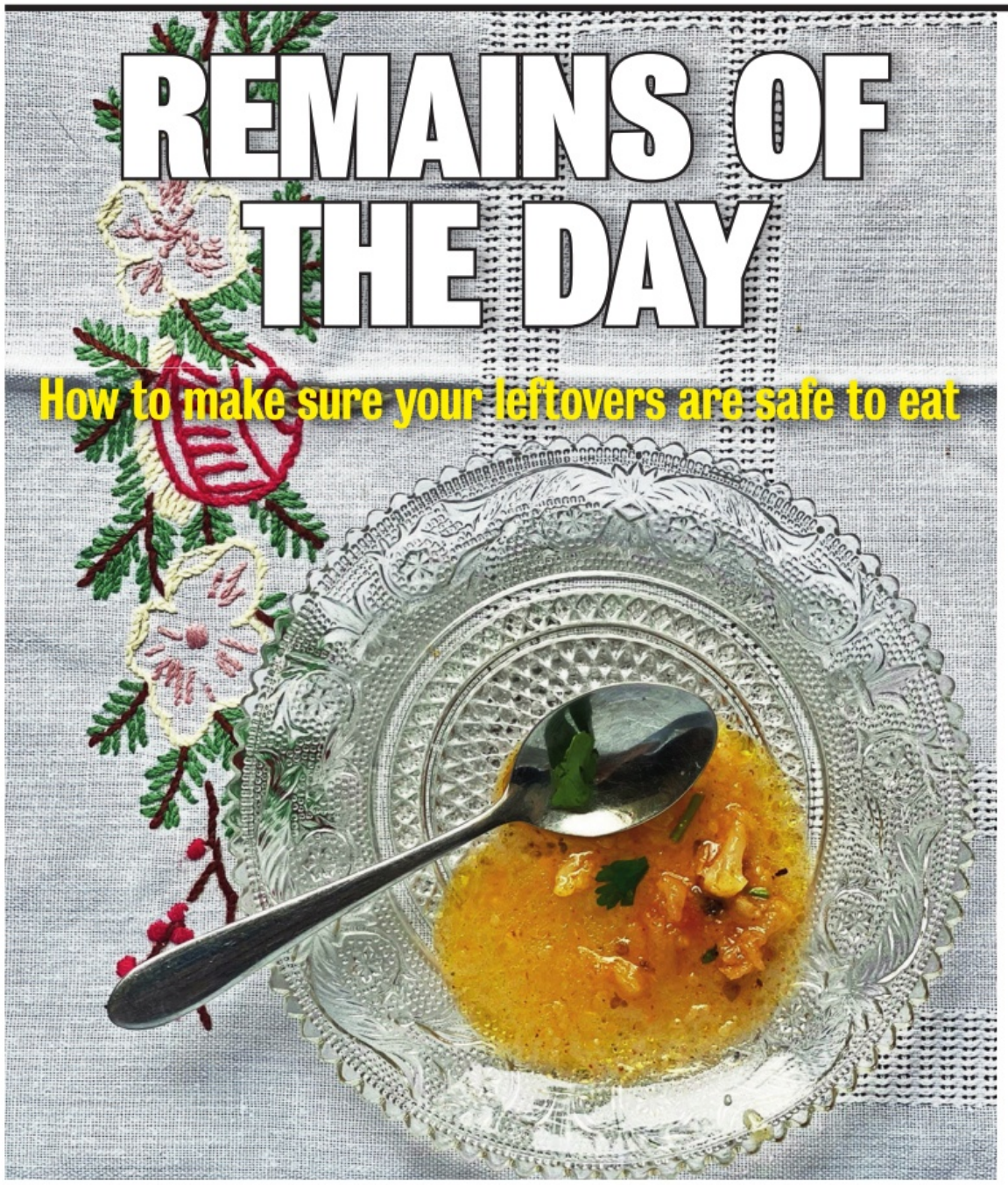
REMAINS OF THE DAY

How to make sure your leftovers are safe to eat



Eating leftovers can be a great way to save money, diversify your cooking repertoire and reduce food waste.

But eating leftover food can also be risky as these foods have already been exposed to bacteria in the environment. If you haven't stored and re-heated leftovers correctly, you could be putting yourself at risk of potentially life-threatening food poisoning.

That doesn't mean you should start avoiding leftovers, however. By following the the correct food safety practices, you can ensure you avoid harm when eating leftovers.

● How quickly should leftovers be refrigerated or frozen?

Bacteria exist everywhere in our world, including in kitchens – and the foods within them. The bacteria that cause food to spoil can grow rapidly with the right nutrients, moisture and temperatures. Some double in numbers in as little as 20 minutes.

It's important that any leftovers are put into the fridge or freezer as quickly as possible and within two hours maximum. This time advice is based on how quickly bacteria can grow in food at non-refrigerated temperatures, and means leftover food become less safe to eat the longer it is left at more than 5°C. You should also make sure that leftovers are covered. Clingfilm and airtight lids help prevent air from getting at the food. This is important, as most pathogens need oxygen to grow.

● How long are refrigerated leftovers safe to eat?

Your fridge should be kept at a temperature of between 0 and 5°C, as this inhibits the growth of food poisoning bacteria on leftovers.

Leftovers must be eaten within two days, as any longer gives harmful bacteria more time to grow. Indeed, pathogens such as Listeria, which can cause flu-like symptoms, can even grow in refrigerated temperatures and are more likely to grow beyond two days – which is why this is the recommended time limit for storing your leftovers.

If you don't think you'll eat your leftovers within that timeframe, consider freezing them. Leftovers can be kept for up to three months if frozen at -18°C.

> **Leftovers must be eaten within two days, as any longer gives harmful bacteria more time to grow. If you don't think you can eat it within that time, consider freezing it**

● What is the safest way to reheat your leftovers?

When you reheat leftovers, you must ensure the food is piping hot all the way through. If not, don't eat it.

Leftover foods should be reheated to an internal temperature of at least 165°F (74°C). For sauces, stews, soups and gravy, it's best to bring them to a full boil, stirring for at least three minutes. These practices will kill most bacteria and inactivate any heat-sensitive bacterial toxins that are present.

If reheating leftovers in the oven, set the oven temperature to at least 325°F (163°C or gas mark 3) and bake long enough to completely heat the food through to at least 74°C. If reheating leftovers in the microwave, you should also make sure they reach an internal temperature of 74°C before eating.

Reheating food using a slow cooker is not a good idea because if foods stay at a temperature less than 165°F for several hours, this can permit bacterial growth – increasing your risk of food poisoning.

● Can you reheat leftovers more than once?

You really should not reheat leftovers more than once. Each time a food warms and cools, it provides the right temperature and amount of time needed for any harmful bacteria to start to regrow.

This then makes it harder for heat kill all the pathogens present the next time you warm up the leftovers. If you don't think you'll eat all your leftovers within two days, consider freezing them.

● Can you reheat a takeaway?

Whether you can safely re-heat takeaway foods depends on how you stored it.

If it was stored warm in the back of your car or left at room temperature in your home for more than two hours, then the meal may be a food poisoning risk – especially if you've already touched or partially eaten it (which introduces bacteria to the food).

But if you didn't handle the food much and refrigerated it within two hours of purchase, then the takeaway is safe to re-heat – provided the next time it's eaten it's first heated to a piping hot temperature of at least 74°C. It also shouldn't be stored in the fridge for more than two days.

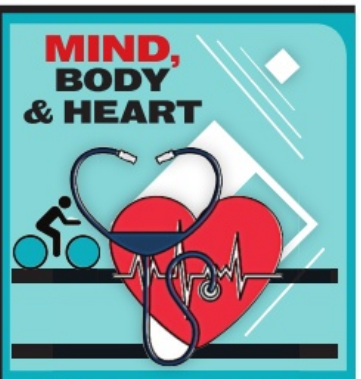
There are some takeaway foods that you should be careful about saving as leftovers. Cooked rice dishes are possibly the most risky to save. Uncooked rice may contain spores of Bacillus cereus, a bacterium that causes food poisoning.

While the parent bacterium is killed when rice is cooked, its spores can survive the temperature of boiling water. If rice is not refrigerated within two to three hours of cooking, the spores can grow into bacteria which in turn release the rice toxins which give rise to food poisoning symptoms such as diarrhoea, abdominal pain and vomiting. The longer contaminated cooked rice is left to stand at a non-refrigerated temperature, the more Bacillus cereus will be present and the more unsafe the dish becomes.

If cooked rice needs to be saved, it should be covered once cooked and cooled quickly (ideally within 2 hours), then stored and refrigerated for no more than 24 hours. Cooked rice leftovers should be piping hot when reheated, and should never be reheated more than once.

Leftovers can be safe to eat so long as you take the right precautions. But if you're ever in doubt, or don't think you'll eat them within two days, storing them in the freezer will give you more flexibility than storing them in the fridge.

(By Primrose Freestone, University of Leicester, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Tips for mental health

Social Media Circle
In an age where social media consumes a significant chunk of our time, it's crucial to be mindful of who we follow. Just like in real life, the people we surround ourselves with online can influence our mood and mindset. Instead of falling into the trap of comparison and FOMO (fear of missing out), opt to follow accounts that radiate positivity and inspiration.

Soak In Some Sun
Humans can fall into the trap of a sedentary lifestyle very easily. Combat it by incorporating a daily walk into your routine. Leave your phone behind and venture outdoors for a refreshing 20-minute stroll in the sunlight. Not only will this boost your vitamin D levels, but it will also provide an opportunity to connect with nature

Practice Of Journaling
Journaling serves as a therapeutic outlet for expressing and processing our thoughts and emotions. By putting pen to paper, we release the mental clutter that weighs us down, allowing us to gain clarity and perspective. Whether you're an overthinker or simply seeking a way to organise your thoughts, journaling can help you take control of your mind .

No-Complaining Policy
Complaining not only perpetuates a cycle of negativity but also relinquishes our power to effect change. Instead of dwelling on problems, shift your mindset towards solutions and actions. Refrain from complaining, both to others and to yourself, and channel your energy into productive endeavours.

Stop Comparing
Comparing ourselves to others only serves to breed insecurity and self-doubt. Instead of fixating on what you lack, shift your perspective to one of growth and learning. When you encounter someone who possesses qualities or achievements you admire, view it as an opportunity for growth.
–Ashdin Doctor, for Femina

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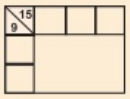
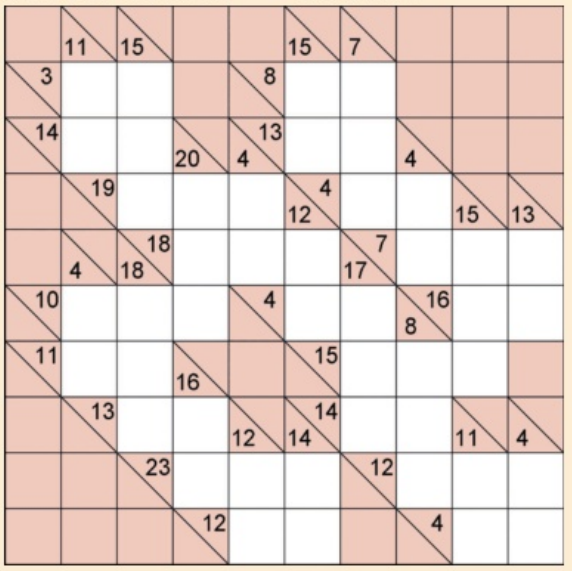
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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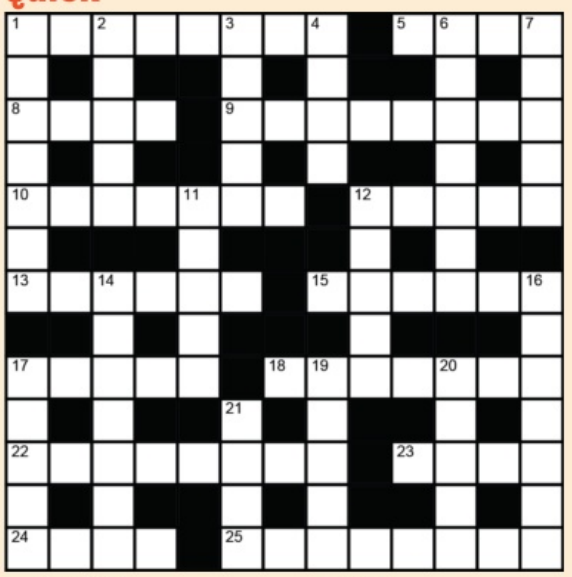


ACROSS

1 Grow together, fuse, unite (8)
5 __ __ arms : protesting strongly (2,2)
8 You too in Latin (2,2)
9 Surrounding atmosphere (8)
10 Writes in a hurried untidy way (7)
12 Gleam or glisten (5)
13 Wisely (6)
15 Struck or shut noisily (6)
17 Catchy parts of songs (5)
18 Military store (7)
22 Alternative name for Kempe Gowda bus station (8)
23 S. Indian snack (4)
24 Beaks (4)
25 One's conscience (8)

DOWN

1 Folds in even or uneven pleats (7)
2 Communion table (5)
3 Will (5)
4 Able was I ere I saw ____? (4)
6 Making a play on words (7)
7 Sibling's daughter (5)
11 Bequeaths (5)
12 Examines, inspects or observes (5)
14 Said for some work which is well done? (4,3)
16 Spends time in idleness (7)
17 Of our species? (5)
19 Happen again (5)
20 2022 French Open Champion (5)
21 It's full form? (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

RXDWXG LA ORZ DWAO ZIMTM-LIM JWUTGCLJZ.

Linemaro

You must be a magician, because every time I look at you, everyone else disappears

Mindchow

He who wrestles with us, strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skills. Our antagonist is our helper

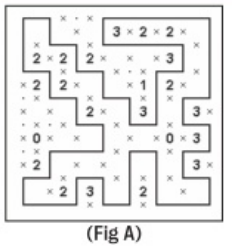
Joke of the day

A family vacation is when you go away with the people you need to get away from

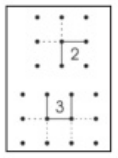
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

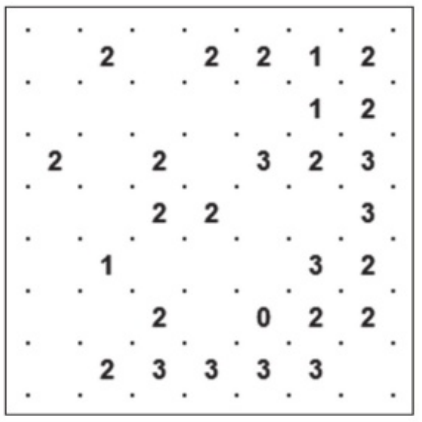


(Fig B) Not Allowed

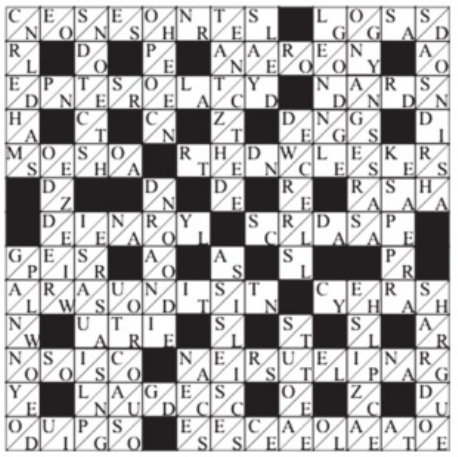
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	V			
9				

ACROSS

1 Alert; 6 La Lau;
7 Pile I; 8 Civet;
9 Leapt

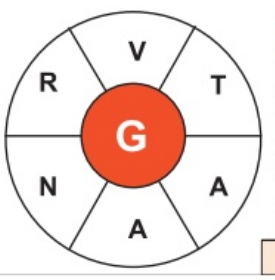
DOWN

1 All PE; 2 Evil a;
3 Uptil; 4 Lee CT;
5 Tiara

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		4	8		3	1		
		2				7		
9	8						2	4
3			9	4	8			2
8			7	1	5			9
6	5						4	7
		7				6		
		3	6		2	9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

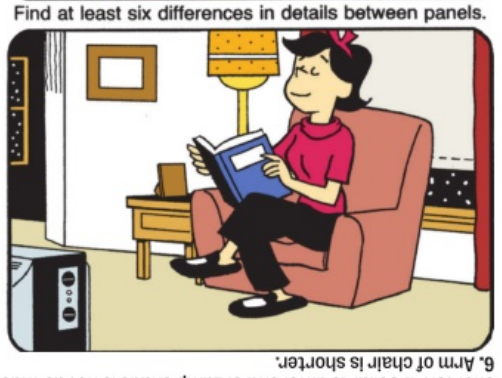
Easy = 9
1 2 2 8

Medium = 10
4 6 9 9

Hard = 12
2 3 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



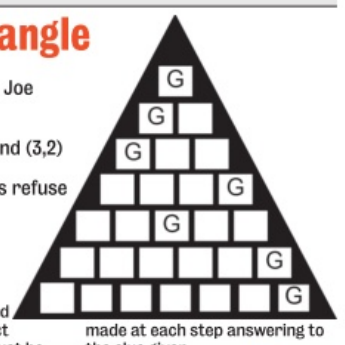
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. TV is smaller. 3. Table is shorter. 4. Collar is different. 5. Lamp shade is not as wide. 6. Arm of chair is shorter.

Riddler

How are these four words connected?
Clue, Grip, Life and Room

Alpha triangle

1 7th letter
2 American soldier Joe
3 Martini base
4 Bell noise
5 Prepared to defend (3,2)
6 Swindling
7 Throwing away as refuse

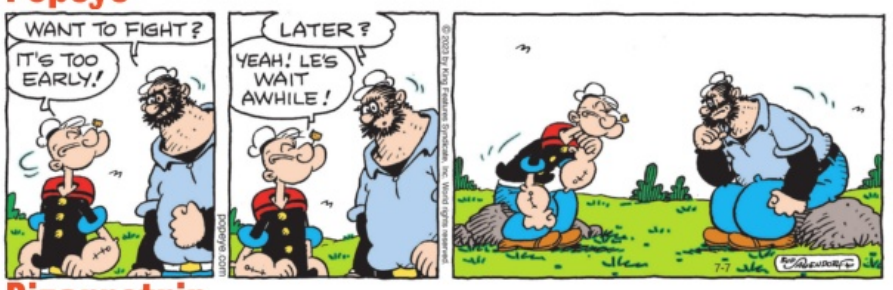


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



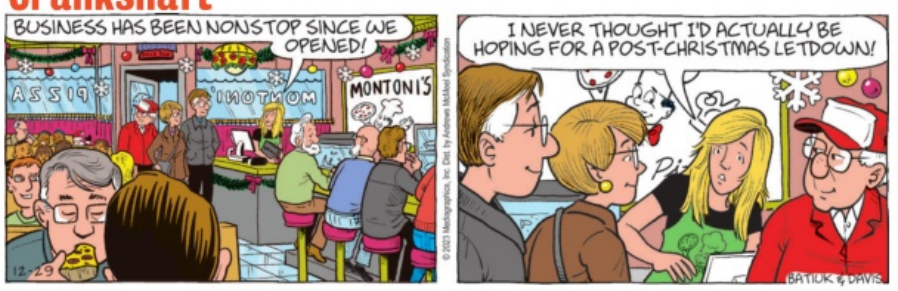
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WE'RE HEADED OUT, KAT!
OKAY, ONE SEC! LEMME GET MY SHOES!
"ONE SEC"? IN THAT ROOM? WE'LL BE WAITING FOR FIVE MINUTES.
MORE LIKE SEVEN. IT'S HAZARDOUS IN THERE.
CLOSEST WITHOUT GOING OVER GET'S EXTRA DESSERT.
FOUND 'EM!
YES!!

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work, and your hard work may finally pay off, boosting your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with an influential person may boost your network, and disputes with your partner may also be resolved.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy and polite with the people around you. You may make some difficult decisions in business with the help of your family members. With your communication skills, you are likely to secure a big order, thereby increasing business prospects.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, giving you good internal strength. You may enjoy work and romantic moments with your spouse, improving domestic harmony. Making new plans for starting a project and implementing them successfully is indicated. Job seekers may find good opportunities, while lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be disappointed. It's advised to control your arrogance to avoid losses due to harsh speech. Lovebirds should be careful in their discussions to maintain their relationship.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, there may be peace of mind. Planning to invest capital in business may increase liquidity, and romantic moments with your spouse may enhance family harmony. Singles may find a good match, and lovebirds may decide to marry.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be very happy as losses may convert into profits. Your boss may appreciate your work, and there may be changes in your position at work, including promotions. You may also gain control over opponents and hidden enemies. Lovebirds may make important decisions about marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the moon is positive, and your health may be good. Visiting religious places with family or friends, planning donations to charity, and property-related deals are likely. Overseas travel for work or higher education may also be on the cards.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, the moon is negative, and you may face conspiracies. It's advised to avoid controversies and arguments in domestic life. Additionally, avoid rash driving or adventure tours.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work, and your enthusiasm may speed up projects. Quick decisions may lead to business growth, but investing in fixed assets in partnership is not advised.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, performing well at work. Expect promotions or transfers for gains, and old health issues may be cured. Relations with seniors will be strong.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon, enjoying work with good focus. Your wisdom will aid in making tough professional decisions, and past investments may yield profits.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull and dissatisfied. Arrogance may affect both professional and domestic life, leading to a lack of confidence and hindering creativity at work.

KIDZONE

Sanjanaa V, 5 Years, DRDO K G School

Surabhi, 6 Years, Innisfree House School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
9² x 1/9²
9²/9²
81/81
= 1

BULL'S EYE
agar, gnat, grant, rang, VAGRANT

STRIKE OUT

C	O	N	S	O	R	T	S		L	O	A	D		
R	O		P		A	R	O	N		A				
E	N	T	R	E	A	T	Y		D	A	R	N		
A	C		N		T		E	G	G		I			
M	O	H	O		T	E	N	W	E	E	K	S		
D		D		D		E		R	A	H				
D	I	A	R	Y		C	L	A	S	P				
P	E	S		O		A		L		P				
A	R	S	O	N	I	S	T		Y	E	A	H		
W	U	R	E		S		L		A					
N	O	I		C		N	E	S	T	L	I	N	G	
E		N	U	D	E	S		O		Z		U		
D	I	G	S		E	S	C	A	L	A	T	E		

QUICK

N		B	S		S	C	R	U	P	L	E	S		
A		O		I		U		A			E			
M	A	J	E	S	T	I	C		I	D	L	I		
U		D		I		E		A			L			
H	O	O	K	S		A	R	S	E	N	A	L		
S		O		L			N				A			
S	A	G	E	L	Y		B	A	N	G	E	D		
E		I			C		N							
S	C	R	A	W	L	S		S	H	I	N	E		
A		A		L		A		N			C			
E	T	T	U		A	M	B	I	E	N	C	E		
R		L		H		L		U		I				
C	O	A	L	E	S	C	E		U	P	I	N		

MENSA PUZZLE
15: (6 × 10) ÷ 4.

RIDDLER
They are all words that can come after "Get A ___" in a phrase

SUDOKU

7	6	4	8	2	3	1	9	5
1	3	2	4	5	9	7	8	6
9	8	5	1	6	7	3	2	4
3	7	1	9	4	8	5	6	2
6	5	8	3	9	1	2	4	7
2	9	7	5	8	4	6	1	3
8	2	6	7	1	5	4	3	9
5	4	9	2	3	6	8	7	1
4	1	3	6	7	2	9	5	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, G1, Ging, Ding, Dug in, Duping, Dumping.

LOOP

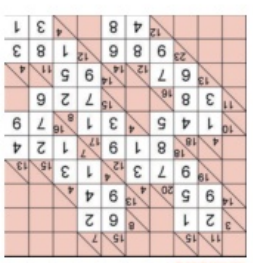
GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 8 − 2 + 1 = 9
Medium
9 + 4 − 9 + 6 = 10
Hard
7 + 2 − 3 × 2 = 12

FAST FIVE

L	A	T	E	R
A	L	U	L	A
P	I	L	E	I
E	V	I	C	T
L	E	P	T	A

QUOTE UNCODE
Humour is the most engaging cowardice.

KAKURO



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Mix and match
Actor Abhay Deol is trying his hands at Djing. On Sunday, the actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram and re-shared a picture of him toying around with the console

Goodbye India

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas along with their daughter Malti Marie, have been having a wonderful time in India, spending precious moments with their loved ones. Their tour has ended and the stunning couple have left Mumbai.

They were spotted at the airport early in the morning. Priyanka cradles her adorable daughter, while Nick is spotted carrying Malti's soft toys. He can be seen asking the paparazzi to be quiet, seemingly for Malti as she sleeps in her mother's arms.

Priyanka and Nick were spotted leaving the Mumbai airport with Malti Marie. The 'Fashion' star looked effortlessly stylish in a white co-ord outfit, complete with trendy sunglasses. Meanwhile, Nick dressed casually, wearing a black t-shirt, green joggers, and white shoes.

Nick, wearing orange shades, gently supported Priyanka as she stepped out of the car, holding Malti in her arms.

Recently, Priyanka and Nick graced the birthday bash of the actress' cousin, Mannara Chopra in Mumbai.The Desi Girl arrived at the party with Nick Jonas. Priyanka was spotted wearing a white bralette with matching skirt for the night. On the other hand, Nick donned a cool pair of yellow pants and a printed white shirt. **ANI**

Surprise visit

Kriti visits Mumbai theater to gauge audience's reaction to her latest film

Actress Kriti Sanon recently visited a theater in Mumbai to gauge the audience's reactions to the heist comedy 'Crew,' which also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu. During her visit, Kriti interacted with moviegoers, adding to the buzz surrounding the film.

On Saturday, the actress, dressed in a stylish mauve top and denim pants, arrived at a cinema in Mumbai where audiences had just watched her recently released film 'Crew.' Kriti engaged with the audience while asking for their feedback on the film and their overall experience.

One excited viewer, referencing a line from the film, humorously asked Kriti, "Where are your goods?" to which she laughed and replied, "The goods have reached everyone else; they haven't reached us yet."

Happy to hear the audience laughing and enjoying the film during the screening, Kriti asked a group about their favorite scene, getting a unanimous response for the landing sequence. Playfully, she teased, "Would you want me to be a pilot? Be careful."

Kriti also had heartwarming interactions with some children, exchanging high-fives and smiles, while a lady praised her exceptional acting skills.

Kareena Kapoor, Tabu and Kriti Sanon-starrer 'Crew' has had a great start at the Box Office. According to estimates, the film opened to Rs 10.28 crore in India and grossed Rs 20.07 crore worldwide on Day 1.

'Crew', a story of three women is touted as a laugh-riot, set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry. However, their destinies lead to some unwarranted situations and they get caught in a web of lies.

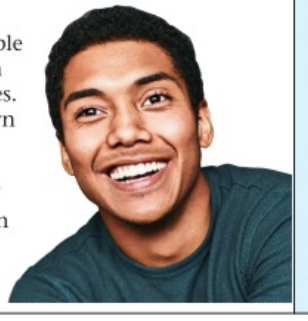
Helmed by Rajesh A Krishnan, 'Crew' features Kareena, Tabu, and Kriti Sanon as air "bada**" air hostesses. From stealing peanut boxes meant for flights to planning to earn a lot of money and raising the glam quotient, the trio has grabbed eyeballs. The film, made under Balaji Telefilms and Anil Kapoor Film & Communications Network banners, was released on March 29. **–ANI**

'Gen V' star Chance Perdomo dies in accident

Chance Perdomo, who worked in TV series such as 'Gen V' and 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina', has passed away as a result of a motorcycle accident. He was 27, reported Variety.

Perdomo's publicist confirmed the British-American actor's death in a statement, "It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of Chance Perdomo's untimely passing as a result of a motorcycle accident. Authorities have advised that no other individuals were involved. His passion for the arts and insatiable appetite for life were felt by all who knew him, and his warmth will carry on in those whom he loved dearest. We ask to please respect the family's wish for privacy as they mourn the loss of their beloved son and brother." Representatives for the Los Angeles Police Department were unable to confirm if the death occurred in Los Angeles.

Perdomo was known for roles as Ambrose Spellman in 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina' and Andre Anderson in 'The Boys' spinoff series, 'Gen V'.



SANDALWOOD
SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

What's eating into teens' lives?

The shooting of the much-awaited teenage cult movie Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare is completed, and its team is busy with post-production work which is in its final stage. At an event for its launch, actors shared their experiences.

Characters featuring the cast including veteran actress Bhavya, former Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy chairman Sunil Puranik, Raghu Ramanakoppa, and others were introduced at the event.

Director Arun Amukta wants to ensure the movie is a huge success at the box office.

"As of now, we are busy with post-production work of the movie. We are planning to release the movie after the Lok Sabha elections. Its shooting was held in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Chikkamagaluru for 50 days," said Amukta.

Elaborating on the concept, he said that it is about the conflict between teenagers and technology. "Nowadays, technology has invaded bedrooms and even bathrooms. Parents cannot enter the bedrooms of their children but technology invades without any hassles. The movie highlights how parents are suffering due to the addiction of their children to mobile phones and how middle and lower-middle class people will suffer due to this menace," the director said.

Rapper-turned-actor Chandan Shetty plays the lead role in this movie. It is believed that Shetty's role has three shades.

The director said shooting of Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare gave him special cinematic experience. "Chandan Shetty must be appreciated for playing the lead that has different shades," he said.